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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTIVE NO. 7

CRITICAL INTELLIGENCE COMMUNICATIONS

Pursuant to Sections 101 and 102, as amended, of the National Security Act of 1947, the National Security Council authorizes and directs that:

The following organization and procedures are hereby established so that the communicating of critical intelligence may be made most effective in order that the President and other members of the National Security Council may receive, in the most timely manner, intelligence necessary for action.

1. There shall be established communications means for the transmission of critical intelligence, particularly that related to early warning of Soviet attack, necessary to the President and high government officials. These means shall consist of tributary lines linking certain overseas intelligence sources of the intelligence community to overseas relay centers at key locations. The overseas relay centers shall in turn be connected to a communications center and distribution system in the Washington area serving the highest authorities.

2. The Secretary of Defense shall be the Executive Agent of the Government to provide for the establishment, operation, and perfection of communications means necessary to ensure adequate transmission of critical intelligence. The Executive Agent of the Government shall be responsible for the establishment, operation, and perfection of the Washington and

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overseas relay centers, the Washington terminals serving the highest authorities, and the interconnecting communications channels. He shall also ensure that, to the extent practicable, intelligence sources overseas are connected with the relay centers designated by him for the relay of critical intelligence.

3. The Director of Central Intelligence, with the advice and support of the members of the Intelligence Advisory Committee, shall provide the Secretary of Defense with continuing guidance as to the communications requirements of the intelligence community for the transmission of critical intelligence.

4. The Director of Central Intelligence, in consultation with the members of the Intelligence Advisory Committee, shall define critical intelligence and establish uniform criteria for the identification, selection, and designation of relative priority for the transmission of critical intelligence.

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